

I Believe in Trust

by

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Trust is the foundation of every relationship. Therefore, I believe in trust and trusting others. However; if trust was a commodity that could be bought and sold, it would be very valuable; something to be treasured, because currently, it is in such short supply.

The lack of trust that exists today is tearing apart the institutions and relationships that were once the foundation of our society. Churches, governments, businesses, marriages and families are all victims of the decline in trust.

Just how many handshake deals are done in today's business world? What would your attorney advise about doing business without a written contract? If you were to say that none is needed, since I trust this individual, the reaction would be very predictable.

It is somewhat amusing to me that one of the few places you see the word "Trust" today is on United States government currency. There in bold face type are the words, "In God We Trust." And yet, even trust in The Almighty is not favored by all, and in some circumstances is used as a political weapon, as though only those who shout it have it at their disposal.

Since this lack of trust was an element that was impacting my professional work, I took the time about nine years ago to attend a workshop on trust. The major learning point I still carry from that training is that trust is not built between businesses or governments, but between people. If you want to build a relationship between organizations you must first start at building trust between yourself and other individuals.

Investing in trust means working at it every day. Trust means living a life of purpose and being known as a person of your word. It is not what you say, but what you do that counts. "Walking the talk" is many times more beneficial to building relationships and trust than passing judgment on people based on what is said. As President Ronald Reagan once said, "Trust, but verify."

I would rather live a life trusting others until they prove themselves untrustworthy, than be an unhappy and suspicious person who lives a life in which every person and event is dealt with in such a jaundiced way that life becomes a dreary series of events where you are waiting to have people disappoint you by being untrustworthy.

I have felt the burden of not trusting people, organizations, and administrations. It is demoralizing and it robs one's spirit and confidence in the future. Therefore, I'm committed to continue trusting others. To include people whom I have yet to meet, because I know inherently, that if I am trustworthy, they too can be trusted to do the right thing.

So we all have a choice on what commodities to invest in. For me it will be trust over pork bellies.